

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 EUR-08 AF-04 PM-03

SP-02 L-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 SAM-01 EB-03 SSO-00

INRE-00 /053 W

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O P 241605Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2301

INFO AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 0155

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2 (IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE)

TAGS: PFOR, GY, AO, CU

SUBJECT: CUBAN AIRCRAFT FROM AFRICA LANDS GUYANA, ENCOUNTERS
REFUELING PROBLEM; MYSTERIOUS CUBAN SHIP AT LINDEN

REF: GEORGETOWN 0036

1. FOLLOWING INFORMATION GIVEN EMBASSY BY TWO PRIVATE SOURCES
SUPPORTED IN PART BY DOCUMENTATION (COPIES RADIO MESSAGES) FROM
ONE SOURCE. WE BELIEVE IT TO BE CORRECT:

2. CU-699, TYPE BRITANNIA 31 AT 0620 ZULU JANUARY 23 RADIOED
TIMEHRI AIRPORT GUYANA SAYING IT ENROUTE CUBA FROM GUINEA/BISSAU
REQUESTING PERMISSION LAND FOR MAINTENANCE AND ADVISING IT EX-
PERIENCING PROBLEMS ON GENERAL FLIGHT SYSTEM ON ONE ENGINE.
PERMISSION GRANTED, AIRCRAFT LANDED 0930 ZULU. AIRPORT SECURITY
REFUSED ALLOW AIRPORT PERSONNEL APPROACH CRAFT AND ONLY TWO OR
THREE CREWMEN DISEMBARKED. REQUESTED REFUELING, BUT TEXACO, WHICH
HAS ONLY AIRPORT FEFUELING FACILITIES, REFUSED. RADIO MESSAGE
SENT PARAMARIBO (SURINAM) BY TIMEHRI SAYING GEORGETOWN UNABLE
SUPPLY FUEL AND DOES NOT HAVE ENOUGH FUEL TO FLY TO ZAM
(SURINAM), BUT COULD SURINAM REFUEL. SURINAM CIVIL AVIATION
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AUTHORITIES RADIOED BACK THAT PLANE COULD REFUEL THERE SUBJECT TO

GIVING INFORMATION ON TYPE AIRCRAFT, POINT DEPARTURE AND DESTINATION, AMOUNT FUEL, NUMBER SOULS ON BOARD, TYPE CARGO, NAMES CREW AND NUMBER PASSENGERS. CUBANS MADE NO RESPONSE. TWO CUBAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS AT AIRPORT ASSURED AIRPORT OFFICIALS PLANE WOULD BE REFUELED GUYANA DESPITE TEXACO REFUSAL AND THAT MATTER NOW BEING TAKEN UP AT DIPLOMATIC LEVEL. PLANE WAS STILL AT TIMEHRI AIRPORT LATE JANUARY 23.

3. EARLY JANUARY 22 CUBAN VESSEL TENTH OF OCTOBER ARRIVED OFF BAR AT ENTRANCE DEMERARA RIVER. CAPTAIN REQUESTED SMALL BOAT AND WENT TO CUBAN EMBASSY. SHIP DID NOT REQUEST PILOT AND MISSED TWO TIDES. PRIME MINISTER CALLED IN CHIEF PILOT TO HIS RESIDENCE EVENING JANUARY 22. CHIEF PILOT NORMALLY PERFORMS ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS, DOES NOT USUALLY PILOT SHIPS AND COLLEAGUE STATED CALL TO PM'S RESIDENCE UNUSUAL IF NOT UNPRECEDENTED. CHIEF PILOT THEN PROCEEDED TO CUBAN VESSEL AND PILOTED IT ACROSS BAR AND UP DEMERARA RIVER TO LINDEN, WHERE IT PRESENTLY BELIEVED TO BE UNLOADING UNKNOWN CARGO.

COMMENT: GUYANA HAS PURCHASED CEMENT FROM CUBA IN PAST, AND CEMENT BELIEVED SOMETIMES OFFLOADED AT LINDEN. HOWEVER, WE HAVE SEPARATELY PICKED UP PRESENTLY UNSUBSTANTIATED REPORT THAT MYSTERIOUS CUBAN SHIPMENT ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE BY AIR MENTIONED PARA 4 OF REFTTEL NOW ARRIVED OR ARRIVING BY SHIP.
KREBS

CAUTION: THIS MESSAGE APPEARS TO CONTAIN SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION.

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Message Attributes

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